

PEST OF THE MONTH

MADEIRA VINE (*ANREDERA CORDIFOLIA*)

Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) is a succulent evergreen South American vine, introduced into New Zealand as a garden plant.

The vine is characterised by glossy, heart-shaped green succulent leaves and the warty aerial tubers found year-round on the vine. From March to April, it produces a dense covering of small fragrant cream flowers on narrow racemes to 20cm long.

The combination of fleshy leaves and aerial tubers make it heavy enough to damage or smother host trees. It grows vigorously from a fleshy rhizome root that will tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. As no fruit or seed is produced, Madeira vine relies entirely on vegetative spread by either rhizome breakup or tuber dispersal. The tubers can remain viable in the soil for up to five years.

Control of this pest must include tuber containment; these fall freely when the vine is pulled. This will involve intensive ground raking, and using ground covers to catch tubers if vine pulling.

All tubers and vegetative material must be collected and destroyed to prevent further spread.

The Council believes that it is possible to eradicate Madeira vine and it has been included as a Total Control pest in the Regional Pest Management Strategy. If you know of this plant on your property or have seen it elsewhere, please contact a Biosecurity Officer Ph 03 543 8400, who will advise on and assist with its control.

